

**James Knox Polk to Andrew Jackson, April 15, 1828,
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by
John Spencer Bassett.**

1 Copy.

Washington City, April 15, 1828.

Dear Sir, Since my letter of the 13th I have conversed with Mr. Calhoun, on the subject of the publication of your answer to Govr. Rhea of Indiana, and likewise again with Major Moor of Kentucky. On further reflection Major Moor concurs with the Vice President in opinion that it would not be proper for the publication to come from you, unless circumstances hereafter should render it so. They are of opinion if the publication comes from you, it might have the appearance of anxiety on your part to throw it before the public; that the proper course will be, after giving his Excellency sufficient time, to publish it, if he intends to do so, for the *Argus* at Kentucky, the Louisville *Advertiser*, and other papers, in the West friendly to the cause, to come out upon him, state the fact that the answer had been received; that it had been withheld from the public, because it did not serve the political purposes of the coalition, and goad him to its publication. In this way, the public anxiety will be excited, without any agency on your part, and whether he publish it or not, the effect on the public mind will be the same.

We are of opinion that Clay is the manager in this affair, and it is not [im]possible, that his Excellency may desire his advice before he acts. Is it not possible too that Clay on examining your answer, may direct him, to address you a second time, arguing a more explicit answer. In that much, your friends here, are of opinion that the answer already given is a full one and just such an answer as should have been given, and that you

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should give no other. They attempt to interrogate you on your political faith, for political purposes, and you are bound to take no further notice of them.

Having written you on this subject two days ago, and having since that time conversed with Mr. Calhoun, and Major Moor, I have thought proper to make these suggestions. They will pass for what they [are] worth. If they are of no service, they can do no harm.

I am Very Respectfully, Your friend and obt. Svt.